

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

S/S - O: A. OTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, EG, US

SUBJECT: LEBANON

1. IN THE INTERESTS OF KEEPING SADAT AND FAHMY UP TO DATE
ON OUR ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON, YOU SHOULD PASS TO MOBAREK
THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) IN OUR LAST MESSAGE ON AMBASSADOR BROWN'S ACTIVITIES,
WE MENTIONED HIS THOUGHT THAT A JOINT SECURITY FORCE
MIGHT BE ASSEMBLED FROM THE VARIOUS GROUPS PRESENT IN
LEBANON IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A MEANS FOR MAINTAINING THE
CEASEFIRE AND KEEPING ORDER. AMBASSADOR BROWN HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THIS POSSIBILITY, AS A PURELY
PERSONAL IDEA OF HIS, WITH SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL MARONITE
LEADERS ON APRIL 5. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WITH WHOM HE
TALKED THOUGHT THAT THE IDEA HAD MERIT AND OFFERED TO
CONTRIBUTE MARONITE FORCES TO IT. BROWN ENCOUNTERED SOME
SKEPTICISM AS TO ITS FEASIBILITY,

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BUT BASICALLY THE RESPONSE
WAS POSITIVE. WE HAVE NOT, AS YET, HOWEVER, MADE ANY
EFFORT OFFICIALLY TO PROPOSE SUCH A FORCE TO THE
RESPECTIVE GROUPS.

B) BROWN ALSO DISCUSSED WITH THE MARONITE LEADERS THE
IMPORTANCE OF MOVING AHEAD RAPIDLY WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL
PROCESS THAT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE A NEW GOVERNMENT
CAN BE FORMED AND A MORE VIABLE POLITICAL BASIS
DEVELOPED FOR LEBANON. HE EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE
POSITION OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BUT SAID THAT HE
THOUGHT THE ONLY AVENUE FOR THEM WAS TO PROCEED WITH
THE NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD A SOLUTION IN THE CONTEXT
OF A UNITED LEBANON.

C) THE SECRETARY SENDS HIS WARM REGARDS TO PRESIDENT
SADAT AND TO FAHMY.

2. WITH RESPECT TO YOUR CONVERSATION WITH RIAD (CAIRO
4618) YOU MAY TELL RIAD THAT BROWN'S MISSION WAS NOT
WORKED OUT IN ADVANCE WITH THE SYRIANS. THIS WAS
AN ENTIRELY UNILATERAL U.S. MOVE. THE DECISION WAS
MADE VERY QUICKLY IN WASHINGTON AND BROWN LEFT HERE
THE SAME DAY. MESSAGES WERE SENT AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME
TO ALL OF THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS. WE REGRET THE
DELAY IN THE MESSAGE TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. IF
YOU BELIEVE THAT SADAT OR FAHMY MAY HAVE THE SAME
MISUNDERSTANDING, YOU MAY REAFFIRM THIS POINT TO MOBAREK
FOR THEM, PERHAPS SAYING THAT IT HAD BEEN RAISED WITH
YOU BY RIAD. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-C, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, PROGRESS REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE084717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARDAY:TH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760482/aaaacrtr.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, LE, EG, US, (SADAT, ANWAR), (FAHMY), (MUBARAK, HUSNI)
To: CAIRO BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006